Facilities to the Press

189. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of facilities, such as release of newsprint and advertisements have been extended to the Press by Government and its public undertakings;

(b) whether these facilities are being enjoyed even by that section of the Press which is instigating or propagating terrorism and subversion; and

(c) if so, the justification for doing so?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) Since the import of newsprint has been decanalised with effect from 1.4.1992, the Government at present do not release newsprint to the newspapers but only Registrar of Newspapers for India issues a certificate indicating the entitled quantity of newsprint to those who apply for it as per the current Import Policy of the Ministry of Commerce and the guidelines notified by the Ministry of I&B on 5.5.1992. Advertisements on behalf of various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and a few Government undertakings and autonomous bodies are issued through Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity to newspapers/journals. But such advertisements are not issued to newspapers/journals which tend to incite communal passions, preach violence, affect the sovereignty and integrity of India or socially accepted norms of public decency and morals.

Telecast of Hindi Programmes by Foreign T.V. Networks

190. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of government has been drawn to a press news item captioned "Zee TV to beam Hindi fare" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 1st October, 1992;

(b) whether several foreign TV networks have started exclusively Hindi programmes in the Indian skies;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to meet the challenges of foreign TV networks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. However, the programmes transmitted via foreign setellites are available only to those viewers who have installed a compatible Dish Antenna. Constant efforts continue to be made to bring about a qualitative improvement in the programme format of Doordarshan to sustain the interest of its viewers.

Deputation of Subject Experts to Overseas Centres of Indian Institute of Mass Communication Services

191. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to depute professors and subject experts in overseas mass communication on deputation to various overseas centres from Indian Institute of Mass Communication Services;

(b) what is the number of foreign subjects (Linguistics) employees working in this institute and whether their services are rendered on International level; and

(c) whether any foreign country has demanded our subject experts and what is the number of posts lying vacant in out "Videsh Sanchar Seva" in various countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.